

Library



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Public Health Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1958



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Public Health Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1958



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30202000>

UPTON UPON SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report for the year 1958

To:- The Chairman & Members of the Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1958, and am pleased to be able to comment upon the remarkably low incidence of infectious disease for the year. It is tempting to regard this as an excuse for sitting back and congratulating oneself and for relaxing the control measures that are normally taken. These control measures include schemes of active immunisation against infectious disease, the supervision by sampling and inspection of water and food, and improvements in drainage and housing conditions. It must be remembered that it is normal for there to be wide fluctuations in the incidence of infectious disease in any community even though the conditions within that community appear to remain constant.

The housing of the population is now being left to a large extent in the hands of private individuals; and the Council as owner of house property is for the most part in the same position as a private owner, though it has special privileges. The privileges that I refer to are its powers in respect of control of tenants. They are also matched by special responsibilities and it is the duty of the Council to ensure that the needs of the population, so far as housing is concerned, are adequately met. If this cannot be done in an economic manner, the Council may if it so decides contribute towards the cost from the General Rate Fund. We have been concerned to notice that the difficulties of fitting the right person into the right house seems to be increasing as competition for houses decreases.

The number of houses for old people will in the future have to be very carefully calculated. It would be necessary to decide whether the old should live in small communities i.e. an improved and modern version of almshouses or whether they should live in bungalows scattered amongst other house property so that they can see life going on around them.

Should an attempt be made to get them back to that part of the countryside or village or town that they know? There has been

/considerable

considerable lessening of family ties over the last 50 years. Grandparents no longer hold the position of authority that their grandparents used to hold in the family hierarchy. Attempts by old people to mould the next two generations of their family and to rule them generally give rise to much suffering and sometimes fail disastrously. The removal of responsibility from an old person will usually result in his or her deterioration and the removal of the old from their family surroundings is also apt to result in severe deterioration and will probably increase the risk of accidents to them. The old person who has lived all his life in one house will continue to move around that house fairly well even if he is suddenly stricken blind. If moved elsewhere he will probably never learn to find his way around. I have quoted extreme examples indicating the difficulties that are faced by the Council in providing housing accommodation for old people. The accommodation provided by private enterprise is unlikely to meet the community's needs in respect of certain groups of people. We do not know for sure what part unsuitable accommodation plays in the genesis of mental illness, but there is evidence that disruption of family units by rehousing some members at a distance can be as disastrous as the crowding of three or more generations under one roof. However, light will probably be thrown on this problem by the operation of the new Mental Health Act when it comes into force.

You will see from these remarks that the concept of community health is clear. It is concerned firstly, with the health of the individual as such, secondly, with the health and vigour of the family as a unit and thirdly, with the health and vigour of the community in which we hope to see all the component parts functioning to the best of their ability.

For the details of the work carried out during the year I must refer you to the pages of this report.

It only remains for me to thank Mr. Cromwell and the staff of the Council generally for their co-operation and for the happy relationship which exists between all of us.

H. F. GREEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,138
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£122,219
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£460

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Resident population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,770
Live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Still birth rate per 1,000 live & still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.24
Total live & still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births - total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.3
" " " " " " - legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.07
" " " " " " - illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.9
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live & still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.8

DEATHS

Causes of Deaths (All ages)

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	-	2
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	2	-	2
Cancer - all forms	14	11	25
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	26	45
Diseases of heart and arteries	40	49	89
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	8	15	23
Bronchitis	4	5	9
Diseases of digestive system	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Violence	4	4	8
All other causes	9	15	24
Totals	116	127	243

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Services

Chemical analysis is carried out by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings, Worcester. Bacteriological examination is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided, by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held in the following parishes:

Hanley Swan	... 3rd Wednesday in month at 2.30 pm
Kempsey	... 1st Thursday in month at 2.30 pm
Longdon	... 2nd Tuesday in month at 2.00 pm
Upton upon Severn	... 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in month at 2.30 pm
Welland	... 2nd & 4th Fridays in month at 2.00 pm

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern, under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye cases.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following action was taken during the year in respect of Infectious Disease Notifications received:

Visits to premises for investigation	... ..	4
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	... ..	2
" " " other diseases	... ..	3

Tuberculosis.

3 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

At the end of 1958 the tuberculosis register contained the name of 35 males and 28 females who normally reside in the district.

Table shewing number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year:

	Total all ages.	Age un- known	0-1 yr.	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	over 25 yrs.
Scarlet Fever	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Measles	147	2	5	19	40	79	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	1	1	1	7	-	-	-
Ac. pneumonia	9	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	5
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	171	4	6	20	43	89	2	2	5

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Table shewing number of children vaccinated during the year:

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-14 yrs.	15 & over	Totals
Number of children receiving primary vaccination	101	4	1	1	5	112
Number of children re-vaccinated	-	-	-	-	5	5

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Table shewing number of children who have completed a primary course of pertuss vaccine (singly or in combination) during the year.

Number of children immunised	0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
	131	4	135

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1958.

	Under 1 yr.	Ages 1-4 yrs.	Ages 5-14 yrs.	Totals
Children who received a full course of primary immunisation.	96	42	2	140
Children who received a re-inforcing injection.	-	19	49	68

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Table shewing number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1958.

Age at 31.12.58.	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	Total under 15 years
i.e. born in year	1958	1954-57	1949-53	1944-49	
Number Immunised	11	460	818	940	2,229

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

To the Chairman & Members of the District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the work of the Department for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Summary of General Visits and Inspections

General Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Drainage inspections - supervision of work	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Visits to temporary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949/57	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Visits in connection with Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Inspection of works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	424
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Inspections under Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	258

Inspections under Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Inspections of cafes, kitchens & Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	13
Inspections in connection with the sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inspections of premises registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	290

Inspections under Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections during year	24
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

Post mortem examination of all animals slaughtered is carried out, and for this purpose 290 visits were made during the year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	181	-	40	620	205
Number inspected	181	-	40	620	205
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	3	-
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned	18	-	-	37	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	9.98%	-	2.5%	6.45%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.66%	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis	No carcase was found to be affected.				

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont.)

No. of Food Premises in the District:

Shops:-

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakers & Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocery & Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fish (Wet & Fried)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes & Refreshment Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition at lest two mobile shops (Butchers & Wet fish) are known to trade in the district although being based outside it.

Bakehouses.

There are 8 bakehouses in the district, the general standard being reasonably good. Some minor repairs and improvements were made to one of the smaller establishments during the year.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of premises registered and purpose of registration, under Section 16:

Premises registered for storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream	...	...	...	...	32
Premises registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc.	...	...	...	...	5

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

-o-o-o-o-o-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont.)

Food Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

Table shewing quantities of food condemned during the year.

Frozen Mackerel	...	...	...	...	...	...	65 lbs
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 ¹ / ₂ lbs
Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs
Canned fruits	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 Tins
" jams	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 "
" vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 "
" milk products	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
" fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 "
" meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 "

During the early part of the year, examination at the Port of entry of part of a consignment of imported apples indicated that the apples were contaminated with arsenic.

One box supplied to a retailer in this area was submitted to the County Analyst, but as no trace of arsenic was found, the apples were released for sale.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Large items such as an animal carcase are collected by a specialist firm from the City of Worcester for processing, but the average small items are either burnt or buried.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Little work has been possible under these Regulations due to the continually increasing amount of day to day work. Some minor improvements have been carried out and the growing demand for pre-packed and quick frozen foods is resulting in less "open food" being exposed to the risk of contamination whilst awaiting sale.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

WATER SUPPLIES.

No general shortage of water was reported during the year, but owing to the unsatisfactory quality of certain wells in the Parish of Welland, a main was laid from the Malvern Urban District Boundary in Upper Welland, to the Welland Cross Roads. This will ultimately form part of the proposed South Western Scheme which it is hoped will come to fruition in the near future.

Work on the water scheme for Kempsey and Ripple was commenced during the year, the termination of which will complete the programme for that portion of the district lying to the east of the river.

WATER SAMPLING.

Private Wells.

No. of samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	98
Results of Analyses - Satisfactory	...	...	49
- Unsatisfactory	...	...	49
No. of wells cleansed and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	8
No. of wells closed during year	...	...	18

Swimming Baths.

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to the public	...	...	1
No. of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	2
Results of analyses - Satisfactory	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory	...	...	Nil

-o-o-o-o-o-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No. of Factories on Register	...	...	...	...	...	57
No. of Factories inspected during year	...	...	...	...	...	11
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of Notices served (Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1

Legal proceedings were instituted to enforce the provision of satisfactory sanitary accommodation at one factory whilst improvements were obtained by informal action at two other premises.

HOUSING.

The year saw very little progress in the Slum Clearance and rehousing Programme. Of the 6 houses and 4 bungalows completed in the parish of Earls Croome only 1 house and 4 bungalows were available for Slum Clearance families.

Work on the erection of 18 houses and 7 bungalows in Callow End was commenced during the year, which should help to accelerate the speed of the programme during 1959.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

No. of premises scheduled for action	...	...	...	147
No. of premises dealt with up to 31.12.58.	...	...	...	71

No. of premises dealt with during year:-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	18
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	1
Premises demolished	...	...	...	11
Premises demolished voluntarily	...	...	...	4
Premises reconditioned	...	...	...	4

-o-o-o-o-

No. of Houses erected during the year	...	...	...	...	32
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	10
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	22

Table shewing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the post war programme.

Year	Houses Completed	Year	Houses Completed	Year	Houses Completed
1946	10	1950	46	1954	54
1947	27	1951	32	1955	45
1948	53	1952	58	1956	35
1949	8	1953	57	1957	10
				1958	10

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Fifty-seven applications for improvement grants were received for consideration during the year.

Fifty-four were approved, two withdrawn, and one was awaiting consideration at the end of the year.

THE RENT ACT, 1957.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	6
No. of Certificates of Disrepair granted	...	...	4
No. of undertakings received from Landlords	...	...	1
No. of Certificates of Disrepair refused	...	...	-
No. of premises where work done without undertaking	...	...	1
No. of Certificates of Disrepair Cancelled	...	...	1

-o-o-o-o-

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Public Health Acts.

No. of premises visited	...	...	12
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	10
No. of defects or nuisances abated	...	...	10
No. of Notices served - Informal	...	...	4
No. of Notices served - Formal	...	...	2
No. of legal proceedings instituted	...	...	2

Housing Acts.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	37
No. of premises unfit for habitation	...	...	27
No. of premises not in all respects fit	...	...	10
No. of premises rendered fit	...	...	4
No. of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	18
No. of premises in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	1
No. of Clearance Areas Approved	...	...	Nil
No. of Approved Areas Cleared	...	...	2

Shops Act, 1950.

No Action was found necessary in respect of Sections of the Shops Act, 1950, administered by this Authority. (Sections 37 & 38 (sub-sections 3,4 & 5)).

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewers and sewage disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:-

Earls Croome	-	Pumping Scheme.
Hanley Castle	-	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	-	ditto
Kempsey	-	Pumping Scheme
Longdon	-	ditto
Powick	-	ditto
Holly Green (Ripple)	-	ditto
Upton upon Severn	-	ditto

In addition, a number of smaller schemes dealing with small groups of houses are also in existence in the district.

Work on the extension to the Powick sewers, to serve the Bowling Green and Colletts Green areas, which received Ministry approval during 1957, was commenced during the year.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

RODENT CONTROL.

The work of rodent control progressed smoothly throughout the year. There was an increase in the number of inspections, re-inspections and treatments carried out compared with previous years.

It was necessary to take legal action for obstruction in respect of one farm in the district, but generally, good co-operation was experienced.

No of infestations treated :-

At private dwellings	...	...	...	89
At business premises	...	...	...	81
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	16
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	102

No. of inspections and re-inspections :-

Farms, smallholdings etc.	...	...	...	460
Other premises	...	...	...	333

The annual test-bait of the public sewers in the district was carried out and a treatment given in the one area where a minor infestation was found.

A free treatment is given in respect of private dwellings, but a charge is made for treatments given to business premises.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

I am,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.J. CROMWELL.

Public Health Inspector.

